

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

* * *

Rickie James Owens,
Plaintiff,
v.
Federal Bureau of Investigations, et al.,
Defendant.

Case No. 2:24-cv-01517-BNW

ORDER

10 Pro se Plaintiff Rickie Owens brings this lawsuit and moves to proceed *in forma pauperis*
11 (“IFP”). *See* ECF No. 1. Plaintiff submitted the affidavit required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a) showing
12 an inability to prepay fees or costs or give security for them. Accordingly, the Court will grant his
13 request to proceed *in forma pauperis*. The Court now screens Plaintiff’s complaint (ECF No. 1-1).

I. ANALYSIS

A. Screening standard

Upon granting a request to proceed *in forma pauperis*, a court must screen the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). In screening the complaint, a court must identify cognizable claims and dismiss claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim on which relief may be granted, or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). Dismissal for failure to state a claim under § 1915(e)(2) incorporates the standard for failure to state a claim under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6). *Watison v. Carter*, 668 F.3d 1108, 1112 (9th Cir. 2012). To survive § 1915 review, a complaint must “contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *See Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). The court liberally construes pro se complaints and may only dismiss them “if it appears beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which would entitle him to relief.” *Nordstrom v. Ryan*, 762 F.3d 903, 908 (9th Cir. 2014) (quoting *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678).

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1 In considering whether the complaint is sufficient to state a claim, all allegations of
2 material fact are taken as true and construed in the light most favorable to the plaintiff. *Wyler*
3 *Summit P'ship v. Turner Broad. Sys. Inc.*, 135 F.3d 658, 661 (9th Cir. 1998) (citation omitted).
4 Although the standard under Rule 12(b)(6) does not require detailed factual allegations, a plaintiff
5 must provide more than mere labels and conclusions. *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S.
6 544, 555 (2007). A formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action is insufficient. *Id.*
7 Unless it is clear the complaint's deficiencies could not be cured through amendment, a pro se
8 plaintiff should be given leave to amend the complaint with notice regarding the complaint's
9 deficiencies. *Cato v. United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995).

10 **B. Screening the complaint**

11 Plaintiff's complaint is essentially devoid of any factual allegations. *See* ECF No. 1-1. He
12 essentially alleges the FBI impounded the contents of his safety deposit box. He names the
13 following defendants: FBI, Chase Bank, Arizona Economic Security, Veteran's Administration,
14 and Bank of America. Even liberally construing Plaintiff's complaint, it does not state sufficient
15 factual allegations about the underlying dispute and the defendants' role in the matter to state a
16 claim.

17 If Plaintiff chooses to file an amended complaint, the document must be titled "Amended
18 Complaint." The amended complaint must contain a short and plain statement of the grounds for
19 the Court's jurisdiction. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(1). Additionally, the amended complaint must
20 contain a short and plain statement describing the underlying case and the defendants'
21 involvement in the case. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). Although the Federal Rules of Civil
22 Procedure adopt a flexible pleading standard, Plaintiff still must give each defendant fair notice of
23 his claims against it and of Plaintiff's entitlement to relief.

24 Additionally, Plaintiff is advised that if he files an amended complaint, the original
25 complaint (ECF No. 1-1) no longer serves any function in this case. As such, the amended
26 complaint must be complete in and of itself without reference to prior pleadings or other
27 documents. The Court cannot refer to a prior pleading or other documents to make Plaintiff's
28 amended complaint complete.

1 **II. CONCLUSION**

2 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that Plaintiff's application to proceed *in forma*
3 *pauperis* (ECF No. 1) is **GRANTED**.

4 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk of Court must detach and separately file
5 Plaintiff's complaint (ECF No. 1-1).

6 **IT FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff's complaint is dismissed without prejudice.

7 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that if Plaintiff wishes to file an amended complaint, he
8 must do so by October 11, 2024. Failure to comply with this order will result in a
9 recommendation that this case be dismissed.

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11 DATED: September 11, 2024

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13 _____
14 BRENDA WEKSLER
15 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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